# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
# LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:555
ANSWERED ON:14.05.2007
PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM
Dhindsa Shri Sukhdev Singh;Libra Shri Sukhdev Singh

**Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Public Distribution System (PDS) has failed to achieve the desired results to meet the expectations of the consumers;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to review the entire PDS afresh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard so far?

## Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a), (b) & (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 555 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 14.05.2007 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a): No, Sir. TPDS is supplemental in nature and aims to meet about 50% needs of foodgrains of targetted households. At present, 35 kg. of foodgrains per month, per household are supplied through TPDS. This scale of issue of foodgrains @ 35 kg. per household was introduced in April, 2002 and is still continued.

The trend of offtake of foodgrains under TPDS has shown an increase as below:

(lakh tones)

All India basis Offtake of foodgrains year-wise

| 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 200.66 | 239.31 | 293.55 | 311.05 | 313.79 |

The Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) was launched in December, 2000 for 1 crore poorest of the poor families. The AAY scheme covers the poorest among BPL families. The scheme has been expanded thrice since then. At present 2.50 crore families are estimated to be eligible for the scheme. The number of families identified has risen to 2.39 crore by April, 2007. The Government provides them foodgrains at a highly subsidized rate of Rs. 2 per kg. for wheat and Rs. 3 per kg. for rice. The Central Issue Prices of foodgrains under TPDS have also not been revised since July, 2002.

(b)&(c): There were, however, complaints about diversion/leakages in the system. To get independent feed back for corrective action, the Government got evaluation studies conducted by Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO) of Planning Commission (March, 2005) and by ORG Marg (September, 2005). These studies have revealed considerable leakage of foodgrains in TPDS in some States. The Central Government, in consultation with State Govts./UT Administration has drawn up a Nine Point Action Plan to strengthen the TPDS by curbing leakage and diversion of foodgrains meant for PDS. All States/UT Governments have been requested to take necessary immediate action on this action plan.

Review of the functioning of the Targeted Public Distribution System to improve its efficiency, accountability and effectiveness is an ongoing process. Implementation of the Action Plan is being monitored by the State/UT Governments and by Central Government.